

**City of Fort Lauderdale
Utility Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 24 – 6:30 p.m.
100 North Andrews Ave., 8th Floor Conference Room
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33301**

<u>Committee Members</u>	<u>Present/ Absent</u>	<u>Attended (1/05 to 12/05)</u>	<u>Missed</u>
Bunney Brenneman, Chair	P	5	0
Richard Barrett	P	4	1
Christine Campbell, Vice Chair	P	4	1
L. Thomas Chancey	P	4	1
Bob Cole	P	4	1
Margaret Haynie Birch	P	4	1
Bernie Petreccia	P	5	0
Claire Vickery	P	4	1
Nathaniel Wilkerson	P	3	2
Andy Ziffer	A	2	3

City Representatives

Bob Dunckel, Assistant City Attorney
Maurice Tobon, Waterworks 2011
Gene Dempsey, Urban Forester, City of Fort Lauderdale
Mark Almy, Chief Arborist, City of Fort Lauderdale
Steve Hillberg, Waterworks 2011
Peter Partington, City Engineer/Staff Liaison
Jamie Opperee, Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order

Chair Bunney Brenneman called the meeting to order at 6: 37 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Opperlee then took roll call.

III. Self Introductions

Board members, City representatives, and guests introduced themselves in turn.

Chair Brenneman explained that Dr. Benjamin was originally going to attend this meeting but had been unable to.

IV. Approval of Minutes

April 26, 2004 Meeting

Motion made by Mr. Petreccia, seconded by Mr. Barrett, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2004 meeting. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

V. New Business

Update on 2nd Avenue Water Tank/Tower

Maurice Tobon

Waterworks, 2011

Mr. Maurice Tobon, Waterworks 2011, introduced Steve Hillberg and explained the lengthy process to select a replacement tank. The Crom tank had ultimately been selected. The design consultant would develop a site plan and drawings for the DRC process. After the water system Master Plan update, they would know what capacity tank was required. Mr. Tobon confirmed for Mr. Chancey that this tank should last approximately 75 years and require very little maintenance.

Mr. Tobon informed Mr. Barrett that the Poinciana ground tank pump station contract would be awarded at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Tobon said he would return to the UAC in the fall with the drawings. He felt that the DRC process would be smoother and faster if he had the support of the UAC for the project design.

Mr. Tobon confirmed that neighborhood associations approved of the design because it freed up the site to be used for something else. Mr. Barrett advised Mr. Tobon to get input from the neighborhood for the best use of the site.

Ms. Campbell distributed a copy of the brochure from Waterworks 2011 detailing which pump stations were being replaced. She also showed photos of a home with one of the refurbished stations. The home could not be sold due to the immense, unattractive new pump station. Mr. Tobon stated that they were considering how to handle this design problem.

Mr. Partington stated that the Public Works Director was investigating the problem and that they acknowledged that a mistake had been made. The Director would report his findings to the City Commission. Mr. Wilkerson could not understand how anyone could think this design would be acceptable. Mr. Partington explained that five of these stations had appeared within a few weeks; they were all part of the same project, from the same design team.

Mr. Chancey wanted the UAC to make suggestions for a Greenspace Master Plan to be utilized with the extensive development projects in the City. He wondered if these units could not have been relocated. Mr. Tobon noted that these five stations were “substantially deficient in their ability to pump sewage.” To keep costs down, the existing stations were all upgraded and rehabilitated. He noted that new regulations required that all electrical systems be brought above ground.

Mr. Wilkerson felt that installing all of the electrical components above ground also presented a security risk. Mr. Chancey asked if there was a way to move the stations to a more discreet location. Mr. Tobon said this was possible, but it was a “cost issue.”

Mr. Partington reiterated that the City was determined that something like this would never happen again and that it intended to implement procedures to prevent it. In response to Ms. Vickery’s question, Mr. Partington stated that the City’s bond program would likely cover correction costs.

Mr. Tobon informed Mr. Chancey that 10 to 20 more pump stations were to be rehabbed. Mr. Partington confirmed that these were all smaller stations. He assured the Board that now that the City was aware of these issues, the City would monitor the situation to ensure that no units like the five under discussion would ever appear again.

Mr. Partington told Ms. Haynie Birch that he would report back to the UAC whatever Waterworks reported to the City Commission.

Chair Brenneman inquired whether CH²M Hill, Inc. was handling the public outreach. Mr. Tobon confirmed, where upon Ms. Brenneman asked if they could speak with Ms. Dickey regarding more specific public outreach. Mr. Tobon said that Mr. McCormick ran public outreach and they should consult with him. Mr. Partington stated that he met regularly with Paul Bohlander, the Assistant Utilities Director, and would tell him that one of the ways to prevent this was to do a better job of informing the public.

VI. Old Business

Report on Neighborhood Services Day FPL & UAC Handouts

Chair Bunney Brenneman

Chair Brenneman explained that Neighborhood services day was held on May 10. Almost 500 people had attended and fourteen of the sixteen City Departments were represented. The UAC distributed tree trimming and right tree, right place brochures. FPL provided brochures on energy conservation and FPL energy audits. The event was extremely successful and feedback suggested that this would become an annual event. Ms. Haynie Birch recommended that they reconsider the date next year because May was an extremely busy time of year for the entire county.

Line Clearing/Hurricane Preparations

Lynn Shatas
External Affairs Manager, FPL

Chair Brenneman announced that Ms. Shatas had informed her that she could not be present this evening because she was attending a homeowners association meeting. She had promised to provide a report at the June UAC meeting.

The Sistrunk substation work would be done in July, August and September. Chair Brenneman was concerned about notice at a time of year when most homeowner boards were in hiatus. Ms. Shatas had assured her that notice would be sent to homeowner association presidents, and letters would be mailed to residents.

Mr. Chancey and Ms. Campbell noted that some homeowners took responsibility for their tree pruning after being warned that if they did not, FPL would. Unfortunately, there was currently no way of letting FPL and Asplundh know that these trees were being maintained by the homeowners and FPL would re-trim them as part of the neighborhood maintenance.

Chair Brenneman stated that she had admired the work done by the out of town tree trimmers after the hurricanes last summer. She wondered if the real problem was the methods Asplundh used.

Ms. Vickery suggested that a tag or stake could be issued with tree trimming permits to alert Asplundh that the trees did not need further trimming.

Status of Sistrunk Substation Landscape Design

Peter Partington
City Engineer

Mr. Partington had spoken with some people about the drawings Mr. Stresau had designed for the east side of 6th Avenue and discovered a few prospective problems. The trees were to be planted very close to the road and over a water main. The proposal for the west side of 6th and on the CRA site seemed viable but Mr. Partington felt a CRA representative should be consulted.

Mr. Dempsey stated that the City part of the project was along 7th and 5th Streets and in the Post office site. Mr. Partington confirmed that FPL was responsible for the planting of silver buttonwood and crepe myrtle in the right of way on 6th Avenue. He agreed to work with FPL to work out the problems. He asked for feedback regarding removal of the sidewalk on the east side; this would leave much more space for the trees.

Mr. Partington produced the drawings and described the problem with the trees' proximity to the street and the water main. Mr. Chancey stated that the crepe myrtle was a shrub and wondered why they could not be located there. Mr. Partington was concerned with locating any immovable object less than four feet from the curb face. Mr. Chancey assured him that a car could run right over the crepe myrtle; the same was true of the silver buttonwood if they were not manipulated into a single, sturdy trunk. The root systems would also be restricted by the cutout in which they were to be planted. They therefore

would not interfere with the water main. Mr. Dempsey said that the only complaint about the crepe myrtle was that since they are deciduous, they were bare of leaves for the winter months.

Mr. Chancey agreed to visit the site with Mr. Dempsey and come up with some suggestions for alternative plants that could be utilized.

Chair Brenneman brought the Board's attention back to the original objective, which was to camouflage the infrastructure visible over the wall from 7th Street, the neighborhoods, and the general public, not the wall itself.

Other Old Business

Ms. Vickery said that Ms. Bohlander in the Building Department had promised to determine who at the department was responsible to find out where building department officials could go to be trained in energy efficient construction. Chair Brenneman said they could put this item on June's agenda and ask Ms. Bohlander if she would like to attend or designate someone else from the department to attend.

VII. New Business

Ms. Haynie Birch requested that Comcast be invited to attend another meeting. She had been unable to find out why different areas of the City paid different amounts for the same service. She noted that the 33311 zip code had been the last area in the City to be upgraded, but the first area to be audited.

VII. Good of the Committee

Regarding the question at the last meeting about the City's utilizing energy efficient materials and methods in new building construction, Mr. Partington stated that FPL was set to audit all City buildings. The first group to be audited was a group of 14 in the Holiday Park area. A major recurring issue was bad energy habits on the part of employees. FPL would also be investigating whether the City was getting the best rate for their electricity.

Chair Brenneman stated that Dr. Benjamin had expressed a wish to meet with the UAC informally in June, since his schedule was not coinciding with their meeting time. Mr. Dunckel had advised that this was not possible, given Sunshine regulations. Chair Brenneman suggested they wait until Dr. Benjamin would be in the area and call a special meeting of the UAC to accommodate him. The only topic for discussion would be feedback from the Energy Roundtable and the prospect of hosting another one.

Mr. Dunckel suggested that if the UAC's bylaws did not specifically give the Chair the power to call a special meeting, a motion be made to grant her that authority.

Motion made by Ms. Vickery, seconded by Mr. Barrett, to grant Chair Brenneman the authority to call a special meeting of the UAC to discuss the feedback from the Energy Roundtable with Dr. Benjamin. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Vickery suggested that they recommend to the City Commission that Dr. Benjamin receive some form of recognition for all of his work to put together the Energy Roundtable.

Motion made by Ms. Vickery, seconded by Mr. Barrett, to recommend to the City Commission that Dr. Benjamin receive a proclamation or certificate of appreciation for his service in preparing the Energy Roundtable. In a voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Next Meeting

June 28, 2005, 100 North Andrews Ave., 8th floor conference room.

IX. Adjourn

Thereupon, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.